

General Assembly

Raised Bill No. 484

February Session, 2010

LCO No. 2579

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Referred to Committee on Finance, Revenue and Bonding

Introduced by: (FIN)

AN ACT CONCERNING THE GOVERNOR'S REVENUE PLAN.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

- 1 Section 1. Subdivision (14) of subsection (a) of section 16-245e of the
- general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu
- 3 thereof (*Effective from passage*):
- 4 (14) "State rate reduction bonds" means the rate reduction bonds
- 5 issued [on June 23, 2004,] by the state to sustain funding of
- 6 conservation and load management and renewable energy investment
- 7 programs by substituting for disbursements to the General Fund from
- 8 the Energy Conservation and Load Management Fund, established by
- 9 section 16-245m, and from the Renewable Energy Investment Fund,
- 10 established by section 16-245n. The state rate reduction bonds for the
- 11 purposes of section 4-30a shall be deemed to be outstanding
- 12 indebtedness of the state;
- Sec. 2. Subdivision (17) of subsection (a) of section 16-245e of the
- 14 general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu
- 15 thereof (*Effective from passage*):

- 16 (17) "Indenture" means, with respect to state rate reduction bonds, 17 the RRB Indenture, dated as of June 23, 2004, by and between the state 18 and the trustee, as amended from time to time, or any RRB Indenture, 19 dated after the effective date of this section, by and between the state 20 and the trustee, as amended from time to time.
- Sec. 3. Section 16-245j of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

- (a) A financing entity may issue rate reduction bonds upon approval by the department in the pertinent financing order. Rate reduction bonds shall be nonrecourse to the credit or any assets of the electric company or electric distribution company, other than the transition property as specified in the pertinent financing order.
- (b) Except as otherwise provided in this subsection, the state of Connecticut does hereby pledge and agree with the owners of transition property and holders of rate reduction bonds that the state shall neither limit nor alter the competitive transition assessment, transition property, financing orders, and all rights thereunder until the obligations, together with the interest thereon, are fully met and discharged, provided nothing contained in this subsection shall preclude the limitation or alteration if and when adequate provision shall be made by law for the protection of the owners and holders. The finance authority as agent for the state is authorized to include this pledge and undertaking for the state in these obligations.
- (c) (1) Financing orders and rate reduction bonds shall not be deemed to constitute a debt or liability of the state or of any political subdivision thereof, other than the financing entity, shall not constitute a pledge of the full faith and credit of the state or any of its political subdivisions, other than the financing entity, but shall be payable solely from the funds provided under sections 16-245e to 16-245k, inclusive, as amended by this act, and shall not constitute an indebtedness of the state within the meaning of any constitutional or statutory debt limitation or restriction and, accordingly, shall not be

subject to any statutory limitation on the indebtedness of the state and shall not be included in computing the aggregate indebtedness of the state in respect to and to the extent of any such limitation. This subsection shall in no way preclude bond guarantees or enhancements pursuant to sections 16-245e to 16-245k, inclusive, as amended by this act. All rate reduction bonds shall contain on the face thereof a statement to the following effect: "Neither the full faith and credit nor the taxing power of the State of Connecticut is pledged to the payment of the principal of, or interest on, this bond."

- (2) The issuance of rate reduction bonds under sections 16-245e to 16-245k, inclusive, as amended by this act, shall not directly, indirectly, or contingently obligate the state or any political subdivision thereof to levy or to pledge any form of taxation therefor or to make any appropriation for their payment.
- (3) The exercise of the powers granted by sections 16-245e to 16-245k, inclusive, as amended by this act, shall be in all respects for the benefit of the people of this state, for the increase of their commerce, welfare, and prosperity, and as the exercise of such powers shall constitute the performance of an essential public function, neither the finance authority, any electric company or electric distribution company, any affiliate of any electric company or electric distribution company, any financing entity, or any collection or other agent of any of the foregoing shall be required to pay any taxes or assessments upon or in respect of any revenues or property received, acquired, transferred, or used by the finance authority, any electric company or electric distribution company, any affiliate of any electric company or electric distribution company, any financing entity, or any collection or other agent of any of the foregoing under the provisions of sections 16-245e to 16-245k, inclusive, as amended by this act, or upon or in respect of the income therefrom, and any rate reduction bonds shall be treated as issued by or on behalf of a public instrumentality created under the laws of the state for purposes of chapter 229.

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- (4) The proceeds of any rate reduction bonds shall be used for the purposes approved by the department in the financing order, including, but not limited to, disbursements to the General Fund in substitution for such disbursements from the Energy Conservation and Load Management Fund established by section 16-245m and from the Renewable Energy Investment Fund established by section 16-245n, the costs of refinancing or retiring of debt of the electric company or electric distribution company, and associated federal and state tax liabilities; provided such proceeds shall not be applied to purchase generation assets or to purchase or redeem stock or to pay dividends to shareholders or operating expenses other than taxes resulting from the receipt of such proceeds.
 - (5) Rate reduction bonds are made and declared (A) securities in which all public officers and public bodies of the state and its political subdivisions, all insurance companies, state banks and trust companies, national banking associations, savings banks, savings and loan associations, investment companies, executors, administrators, trustees and other fiduciaries may properly and legally invest funds, including capital in their control or belonging to them, and (B) securities which may properly and legally be deposited with and received by any state or municipal officer or any agency or political subdivision of the state for any purpose for which the deposit of bonds or obligations of the state is now or may be authorized.
 - (6) Rate reduction bonds shall mature at such time or times approved by the department in the financing order; provided that such maturity shall not be later than December 31, [2011] 2020.
- 106 (7) Rate reduction bonds issued and at any time outstanding may, if 107 and to the extent permitted under the indenture or other agreement 108 pursuant to which they are issued, be refunded by other rate reduction 109 bonds.
- 110 (d) Any rate reduction bonds issued or sold pursuant to or in 111 reliance on and in accordance with any financing order issued by the

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department pursuant to sections 16-245e to 16-245k, inclusive, <u>as</u> amended by this act, shall be valid and binding in accordance with their terms notwithstanding such financing order is later vacated, modified, or otherwise held to be wholly or partly invalid, unless operation of such financing order has been enjoined, stayed, or suspended by the department or a court of competent jurisdiction prior to such issuance.

(e) When the state is the authorized financing entity: (1) The Treasurer may enter into a trust indenture for the benefit of holders of the rate reduction bonds with a corporate trustee, which may be any trust company or commercial bank qualified to do business within or without the state; such trust indenture shall be consistent with the financing order and may contain such other provisions as may be appropriate including those regulating the investment of funds and the remedies of bondholders; (2) the Treasurer may make representations and agreements for the benefit of the holders of rate reduction bonds to make secondary market disclosures; (3) the Treasurer may enter into interest rate swap agreements and other agreements for the purpose of moderating interest rate risk on rate reduction bonds as permitted elsewhere within sections 16-245e to 16-245k, inclusive, as amended by this act, provided the obligations under such agreements are payable from the transition property; (4) the Treasurer may enter into such other agreements and instruments to secure the rate reduction bonds as provided in sections 16-245f to 16-245k, inclusive, as amended by this act; and (5) the Treasurer may take such other actions as necessary or appropriate for the issuance and distribution of the rate reduction bonds pursuant to the financing order and the Treasurer and the Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management may make representations and agreements for the benefit of the holders of the rate reduction bonds which are necessary or appropriate to ensure exclusion of the interest payable on the rate reduction bonds from gross income under the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, or any subsequent corresponding internal revenue code of the United States, as from time to time amended.

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- Sec. 4. Section 12-801 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):
- As used in sections 12-563a and 12-800 to 12-818, inclusive, the following terms shall have the following meanings unless the context clearly indicates another meaning:
- 151 (1) "Board" or "board of directors" means the board of directors of the corporation;
- 153 (2) "Corporation" means the Connecticut Lottery Corporation as 154 created under section 12-802;
- 155 (3) "Lottery" means (A) the Connecticut state lottery conducted prior 156 to the transfer authorized under section 12-808 by the Division of 157 Special Revenue, (B) after such transfer, the Connecticut state lottery 158 conducted by the corporation pursuant to sections 12-563a and 12-800 159 to 12-818, inclusive, [and] (C) the state lottery referred to in subsection 160 (a) of section 53-278g, and (D) keno;
 - (4) "Keno" means a lottery game in which twenty numbers are drawn from a field of eighty numbers by a central computer system using an approved random number generator, a rabbit ear or wheel system device employing eighty numbered balls and the player matching the number of balls required for a particular spot game is awarded a prize as indicated on the approved rate card;
- [(4)] (5) "Lottery fund" means a fund or funds established by, and under the management and control of, the corporation, into which all lottery revenues of the corporation are deposited, from which all payments and expenses of the corporation are paid and from which transfers to the General Fund are made pursuant to section 12-812; and
- [(5)] (6) "Operating revenue" means total revenue received from lottery sales less all cancelled sales and amounts paid as prizes but before payment or provision for payment of any other expenses.

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Sec. 5. Subdivision (4) of subsection (b) of section 12-806 of the 2010 supplement to the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

(4) To introduce new lottery games, <u>including keno</u>, modify existing lottery games, utilize existing and new technologies, determine distribution channels for the sale of lottery tickets and, to the extent specifically authorized by regulations adopted by the Division of Special Revenue pursuant to chapter 54, introduce instant ticket vending machines, kiosks and automated wagering systems or machines, with all such rights being subject to regulatory oversight by the Division of Special Revenue, except that the corporation shall not offer any interactive on-line lottery games, including on-line video lottery games for promotional purposes;

Sec. 6. (NEW) (Effective from passage) All revenue from the implementation of operation of the game of keno, as defined in section 12-801 of the general statutes, as amended by this act, shall be paid to the Treasurer to be held in trust, and the Treasurer shall not commingle such moneys with any other moneys. Such moneys shall be deposited in a separate account or accounts in banks or trust companies organized under the law of the state or in national banking associations doing business in the state, provided the Treasurer shall have power to contract with the holder of any notes or bonds issued pursuant to sections xxxxx of this act, or with a trustee acting pursuant to a trust indenture for the benefit of such holder, as to the custody, collection, securing investment and application of the proceeds of such notes and bonds and of the revenue from the operation of keno, and to carry out such contracts. Such account or accounts shall constitute a separate nonlapsing fund to be known as the "lottery revenue fund".

Sec. 7. (NEW) (Effective from passage) (a) The State Bond Commission may authorize the issuance of bonds of the state in one or more series and in principal amounts necessary to fund the deficit in the General Fund arising from the operations of the General Fund for the fiscal

207 year ending June 30, 2010, as reported by the Comptroller to the 208 Governor, in accordance with section 3-115 of the general statutes. 209 Such bonds shall be payable from all or a portion of the revenues from 210 the operation of the game of keno, as defined in section 12-801 of the 211 general statutes, as amended by this act, as may be specified in the 212 proceedings authorizing such bonds. The Treasurer shall file a request 213 for the issuance of such bonds with the secretary of the State Bond 214 Commission.

- (b) Bonds issued pursuant to this section shall be special obligations of the state and shall not be payable from nor charged upon any funds other than the revenues pledged to the payment thereof, nor shall the state or any political subdivision thereof be subject to any liability thereon except to the extent of such pledged revenues. The issuance of bonds under the provisions of this section shall not directly or indirectly or contingently obligate the state or any political subdivision thereof to levy or to pledge any form of taxation whatever therefor or to make any appropriation for their payment. The bonds shall not constitute a charge, lien or encumbrance, legal or equitable, upon any property of the state or of any political subdivision thereof, except the property mortgaged or otherwise encumbered under the provisions and for the purposes of this section. The substance of such limitation shall be plainly stated on the face of each bond. Bonds issued pursuant to this section shall not be subject to any statutory limitation on the indebtedness of the state and such bonds, when issued, shall not be included in computing the aggregate indebtedness of the state in respect to and to the extent of any such limitation.
- (c) The bonds referred to in this section may be executed and delivered at such time or times, shall be dated, shall bear interest at such rate or rates, including variable rates to be determined in such manner as set forth in the proceedings authorizing the issuance of the bonds, provide for payment of interest on such dates, whether before or at maturity, shall mature at such time or times not exceeding forty years from their date, have such rank or priority, be payable in such

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medium of payment, be issued in coupon, registered or book entry form, carry such registration and transfer privileges and be subject to purchase or redemption before maturity at such price or prices and under such terms and conditions, including the condition that such bonds be subject to purchase or redemption on the demand of the owner thereof, all as may be determined by the State Bond Commission. The State Bond Commission shall determine the form of the bonds, including any interest coupons to be attached thereto, the manner of execution of the bonds, the denomination or denominations of the bonds and the place or places of payment of principal and interest, which may be at any bank or trust company within or without the state. Prior to the preparation of definitive bonds, the State Bond Commission may, under like restrictions, provide for the issuance of interim receipts or temporary bonds, with or without coupons, exchangeable for definitive bonds when such bonds have been executed and are available for delivery. If any of the officers whose signatures appear on the bonds or coupons cease to be officers before the delivery of any such bonds, such signatures shall, nevertheless, be valid and sufficient for all purposes, the same as if they had remained in office until delivery.

- (d) Any bonds issued under the authority of this section may be sold at public sale on sealed proposals or by negotiation in such manner, at such price and at such time or times as may be determined by the Treasurer to be most advantageous, subject to the approval of the State Bond Commission. The state may pay from the proceeds of the bonds all costs and expenses which the Treasurer may deem necessary or advantageous in connection with the authorization, sale and issuance thereof, including the cost of interest on any short-term financing authorized under subsection (b) of section 8 of this act.
- (e) The principal of and interest on any bonds issued pursuant to this section shall be secured by a pledge of the revenues out of which such bonds shall be made payable. They may be secured by a mortgage covering all or any part of the project from which the

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revenues so pledged may be derived or by a pledge of one or more leases, sale contracts or loan agreements with respect to such project or by a pledge of one or more notes, debentures, bonds or other secured or unsecured debt obligations of any lessee or contracting party under a loan agreement or sale contract or by a pledge of reserve and sinking funds established pursuant to the resolution authorizing the issuance of the bonds and any other funds and accounts, including proceeds from investment of any of the foregoing, established pursuant to this section or the proceedings authorizing the issuance of such bonds, and by moneys paid under a credit facility, including but not limited to, a letter of credit or policy of bond insurance, issued by a financial institution pursuant to an agreement authorized by such proceedings.

- (f) The proceedings under which the bonds are authorized to be issued pursuant to this section, and any mortgage given to secure the same, may, subject to the provisions of the general statutes, contain any agreements and provisions customarily contained in instruments securing bonds.
- (g) In the discretion of the State Bond Commission, bonds issued pursuant to this section may be secured by a trust indenture by and between the state and a corporate trustee, which may be any trust company or bank having the powers of a trust company within or without the state. Such trust indenture may contain such provisions for protecting and enforcing the rights and remedies of the bondholders as may be reasonable and proper and not in violation of law, including covenants setting forth the duties of the state in relation to the exercise of its powers pursuant to this section and the custody, safeguarding and application of all moneys. The state may provide by such trust indenture for the payment of the proceeds of the bonds and the revenues from the operation of the game of keno to the trustee under such trust indenture or other depository, and for the method of disbursement thereof, with such safeguards and restrictions as it may determine. All expenses incurred in carrying out such trust indenture may be treated as a part of the operating expenses of the project. If the

bonds shall be secured by a trust indenture, the bondholders shall have no authority to appoint a separate trustee to represent them.

- (h) Any pledge made by the state shall be valid and binding from the time when the pledge is made, and the revenues or property so pledged and thereafter received by the state shall immediately be subject to the lien of such pledge without any physical delivery thereof or further act. The lien of any such pledge shall be valid and binding as against all parties having claims of any kind in tort, contract, or otherwise against the state, irrespective of whether such parties have notice thereof. Neither the resolution nor any other instrument by which a pledge is created need be recorded.
- (i) The Treasurer shall have power out of any funds available therefor to purchase bonds or notes of the state issued pursuant to this section and section 15-101n. The Treasurer may hold, pledge, cancel or resell such bonds, subject to and in accordance with agreements with bondholders.
- (j) Whether or not the notes and bonds are of such form and character as to be negotiable instruments under the terms of the Uniform Commercial Code, the notes and bonds are hereby made negotiable instruments within the meaning of and for all purposes of the Uniform Commercial Code, subject only to the provisions of the notes and bonds for registration.
- (k) Any moneys held by the Treasurer with respect to the operation of the game of keno, or by a trustee pursuant to a trust indenture, subject to the provisions of such indenture, including proceeds from the sale of any bonds and notes, and revenues, receipts and income from the operation of the game of keno may be invested and reinvested in such obligations, securities, and other investments, including without limitation participation certificates in the Short Term Investment Fund created in section 3-27a of the general statutes, or deposited or redeposited in such bank or banks, all as shall be authorized by the State Bond Commission in the proceedings

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- (1) None of the bonds authorized pursuant to this section shall be issued and sold except upon a finding by the State Bond Commission that there has been filed with it a request for such authorization, which is signed by the Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management or on said secretary's behalf and stating such terms and conditions as said commission, in its discretion, may require.
- 345 Sec. 8. (NEW) (Effective from passage) (a) Any bonds issued under the 346 provisions of section 7 of this act or to refund any such bonds issued 347 under this section, and at any time outstanding may at any time from time to time be refunded by the state by the issuance of its refunding 349 bonds in such amounts as the State Bond Commission may deem 350 necessary, but not exceeding an amount sufficient to refund the principal of the bonds to be so refunded, any unpaid interest thereon and any premiums and commissions necessary to be paid in connection therewith and to pay costs and expenses which the Treasurer may deem necessary or advantageous in connection with the authorization, sale and issuance of refunding bonds. Any such refunding may be effected whether the bonds to be refunded shall 357 have matured or shall thereafter mature. All refunding bonds issued hereunder shall be payable and shall be subject to and may be secured 359 in accordance with the provisions of section 7 of this act.
 - (b) Whenever the State Bond Commission has adopted a resolution authorizing bonds pursuant to section 7 of this act, the Treasurer may, pending the issue of such bonds, issue, in the name of the state, temporary notes and any renewals thereof in anticipation of the proceeds from the sale of such bonds, which notes and any renewals thereof shall be designated "Bond Anticipation Notes". Such portion of the proceeds from the sale of such bonds as may be so required shall be applied to the payment of the principal of and interest on any such bond anticipation notes which have been issued. The principal of and interest on any bond anticipation notes issued pursuant to this

subsection may be repaid from pledged revenues or other receipts, funds or moneys pledged to the repayment of the bonds in anticipation of which the bond anticipation notes are issued, to the extent not paid from the proceeds of renewals thereof or of the bonds.

- Sec. 9. (NEW) (Effective from passage) (a) The Treasurer and the Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management shall jointly develop a plan to establish the Tobacco Securitization Fund and the Tobacco Securitization Authority to administer said fund. Such plan shall include necessary provisions to (1) empower the authority to issue bonds for the purpose of funding the deficit in the General Fund arising from the operations of the General Fund for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2010, as reported by the Comptroller to the Governor in accordance with section 3-115 of the general statutes, and (2) ensure that sufficient moneys shall be disbursed from the Tobacco Settlement Fund established pursuant to section 4-28e of the general statutes for deposit into the Tobacco Securitization Fund, such that any bonds issued by the Tobacco Securitization Authority shall be payable out of the moneys held in the Tobacco Securitization Fund.
- (b) Not later than May 1, 2010, the plan required pursuant to subsection (a) of this section shall be provided, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a of the general statutes, to the joint standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to finance, revenue and bonding.
- Sec. 10. Section 12-263b of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage and applicable to calendar quarters commencing on or after July 1, 2010*):
- There is hereby imposed on the hospital gross earnings of each hospital in this state a tax (1) at the rate of eleven per cent of its hospital gross earnings in each taxable quarter for taxable quarters commencing prior to October 1, 1996; (2) at the rate of nine and one-fourth per cent of its hospital gross earnings in each taxable quarter commencing on or after October 1, 1996, and prior to October

1, 1997; (3) at the rate of eight and one-fourth per cent of its hospital gross earnings in each taxable quarter commencing on or after October 1, 1997, and prior to October 1, 1998; (4) at the rate of seven and one-fourth per cent of its hospital gross earnings in each taxable quarter commencing on or after October 1, 1998, and prior to October 1, 1999; [and] (5) at the rate of four and one-half per cent of its hospital gross earnings in each taxable quarter commencing on or after October 1, 1999, and prior to April 1, 2000; and (6) at the rate of three and onefourth per cent of its hospital gross earnings in each taxable quarter for taxable quarters commencing on or after July 1, 2010. [The hospital gross earnings of each hospital in this state shall not be subject to the provisions of this chapter with respect to calendar quarters commencing on or after April 1, 2000.] Each hospital shall, on or before the last day of January, April, July and October of each year, render to the Commissioner of Revenue Services a return, on forms prescribed or furnished by the Commissioner of Revenue Services and signed by one of its principal officers, stating specifically the name and location of such hospital, and the amounts of its hospital gross earnings, its net revenue and its gross revenue for the calendar quarter ending the last day of the preceding month. Payment shall be made with such return.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	from passage	16-245e(a)(14)
Sec. 2	from passage	16-245e(a)(17)
Sec. 3	from passage	16-245j
Sec. 4	from passage	12-801
Sec. 5	from passage	12-806(b)(4)
Sec. 6	from passage	New section
Sec. 7	from passage	New section
Sec. 8	from passage	New section
Sec. 9	from passage	New section
Sec. 10	from passage and	12-263b
	applicable to calendar	
	quarters commencing on or	
	after July 1, 2010	

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Statement of Purpose:

To effectuate a securitization of existing charges on electric bills through the issuance of rate replacement bonds, of proceeds from instituting the game of keno, or of tobacco settlement funds, and to impose a hospital user fee.

[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]